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30 September 1965

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RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING AND SUPPORTING THE NRO.

1. On 13 August 1965 Mr. Vance and I concluded a new Agreement to guide the conduct of our National Reconnaissance Program. It is essential that all components of CIA understand and support this Agreement. The first step in implementing this new program is to fix clearly the responsibilities within CIA for implementing this Agreement, and this directive makes clear the responsibilities of various components.

2. The new NRO Agreement assigns the following specific responsibilities to the DCI:

a. Establish the collection priorities and requirements for the targeting of NRP operations and the establishment of their frequency of coverage;

b. Review the results obtained by the NRP and recommend, if appropriate, steps for improving such results;

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c. Sit as a member of the Executive Committee;

d. Review and approve the NRP budget each year;

e. Provide security policy guidance to maintain a uniform system in the whole NRP area.

3. An NRP Executive Committee is established to guide the NRO and participate in the formulation of the NRP. As a member of this Committee, the DCI must participate in the following functions prescribed for the Executive Committee:

a. Recommend to the Secretary of Defense an appropriate level of effort for the NRP in response to reconnaissance requirements provided by USIB and in the light of technical capabilities and fiscal limitations.

b. Approve or modify the consolidated National Reconnaissance Program and its budget.

c. Approve the allocation of responsibility and the corresponding funds for research and exploratory development for new systems. Funds shall be adequate to ensure that a vigorous research and exploratory development effort is

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achieved and maintained by the Department of Defense and CIA to design and construct new sensors to meet intelligence requirements aimed at the acquisition of intelligence data. This effort shall be carried out by both CIA and DOD.

d. Approve the allocation of development responsibilities and the corresponding funds for specific reconnaissance programs with a view to ensuring that the development, testing and production of new systems is accomplished with maximum efficiency by the component of the Government best equipped with facilities, experience and technical competence to undertake the assignment. It will also establish guidelines for collaboration between departments and for mutual support where appropriate. Assignment of responsibility for engineering development of sensor subsystems will be made to either the CIA or DOD components in accordance with the above criteria. The engineering development of all other subsystems, including spacecraft,

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reentry vehicles, boosters and booster interface subsystems shall in general be assigned to an Air Force component, recognizing however, that sensors, spacecraft and reentry vehicles are integral components of a system, the development of which must proceed on a fully coordinated basis, with a view to ensuring optimum system development in support of intelligence requirements for overhead reconnaissance. To optimize the primary objective of systems development, design requirement of the sensors will be given priority in their integration within the spacecraft and reentry vehicles.

e. Assign operational responsibility for various types of manned overflight missions to CIA or DOD subject to the concurrence of the 303 Committee.

f. Periodically review the essential features of the major program elements of the NRP.

4. The NRO Agreement further specifies that "the National Reconnaissance Program shall be responsive directly and solely to the intelligence

collection requirements and priorities established by the United States Intelligence Board. Targeting requirements and priorities and desired frequency of coverage of both satellite and manned aircraft missions over denied areas shall continue to be the responsibility of USIB, subject to the operational approval of the 303 Committee."

5. I shall look to the DD/S&T as the principal officer for the National Reconnaissance Program. The DD/S&T will provide staff support to me as a member of the Executive Committee. Specifically, DD/S&T in this role will be responsible for providing staff support to me bearing on:

- a. Allocation of responsibility and funds for research and exploratory development for new systems.
- b. Allocation of development responsibilities for specific reconnaissance programs.
- c. Assignment of operational responsibilities for manned overflight missions.
- d. Periodic reviews of the NRP.

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6. Because the level of effort established for the NRP and its budget are a major element of the national intelligence program, I will look to the D/DCI/NIPE and to DD/S&T for staff support in this area and will expect them to coordinate their recommendations made to me.

7. COMOR will be responsible for establishing collection priorities and requirements for the targeting of NRP operations and for establishing the frequency of coverage desired. Their judgments will be transmitted directly to the NRO after approval by USIB.

8. The CIA Office of Security will be responsible for establishing security policy for the NRP and for supporting the NRO as required. The Office of Security will continue to coordinate all NRO security matters with the DD/S&T.

9. I shall continue to delegate my authority for approval of security clearances involving the NRP to the DD/S&T.

10. The responsibility for development requirements for new or increased reconnaissance capabilities will continue to rest with COMOR and USIB. However, I shall look to DD/S&T for staff

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advice on whether and how these requirements can be met so that proper positions can be adopted in the Executive Committee.

11. The responsibility for determining how film and magnetic tape reconnaissance records ought to be processed is not addressed in the present agreement. For the time being, I will expect DD/S&T to develop the CIA position on such matters in coordination with the Chairman of COMOR and with the advice of the NPIC

12. There is a close and valuable interaction between NPIC and NRO at all levels. However, because NPIC actions and positions on reconnaissance are often represented as CIA or DCI positions, it is essential that all substantive and policy exchanges between NPIC and NRO be coordinated with DD/S&T.

13. The responsibility for reviewing the results obtained by the NRP and the recommendation for improving such results is fixed in NIPE, who will coordinate a DCI position with D/DCI/NIPE, DD/S&T and COMOR.

14. The DD/S&T will receive all correspondence bearing on the NRP and will staff the preparation

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of appropriate answering correspondence, in coordination with other components involved. All initiatives or redirection efforts affecting the NRP will be coordinated with the DD/S&T before presentation to me or outside the Agency.

15. All of the above goes to the question of staff support for my participation in the direction of the NRP. CIA will also continue to participate actively in the NRP as one of the major elements. Most of the NRO-supported activity is distributed in DD/S&T, with several programs located in DD/P. I feel that it is essential that we provide a single point of contact for the NRO within CIA. We are creating as a new position a Director of CIA Reconnaissance Programs, who will report to the DD/S&T. He will have program and fiscal management responsibility for all CIA programs supported by the NRO, and will provide a single authoritative point of contact within the CIA for the NRO. He will keep the DDCI, the DD/S&T and myself informed of all CIA activities within the NRP.

W. F. Raborn
Director

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